GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1701
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
COST BORN BY FARMERS FOR OFD WORKS
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed a condition of payment of 10 per cent cost by the farmers for On Farm Development Works;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that land is allotted to farmers only when CAD has developed;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposed to lift the condition of this cost for Indira Gandhi Canal Project; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes Sir, the Government have imposed a condition of payment of a minimum of 10% contribution in cash or in the form of labour by the beneficiary farmers for construction of field channels and reclamation of water logged areas under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management Programme.

(b) The provision of a minimum of 10 per cent contribution has been made under the scheme to inculcate a sense of belongingness in the beneficiary farmers about the assets being created, thereby ensuring quality of works and proper maintenance of the same in future.

(c)&(d) The Government of Rajashtan has informed that in the Indira Gandhi Canal Command allotment of land to farmers is made only after water courses and other essential Works of Command Area Development are complete. As farmers settle in the Indira Gandhi Canal area only after completion o f Command Area Development activities, the Government of Rajasthan has been requested to give its commitment to form Water User' Associations and recover 10% contribution from the farmers as soon as the land is allotted to them. Their response is awaited.

(e) Relaxation of the provision of 10 per cent contribution by farmers will not be in the long term interest of assets being created under the programme, as farmers would not own and maintain them.